

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 11511 201049Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----201100Z 023691 /13

P R 201048Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1911
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T PARIS 11511

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS CG FR
SUBJ: SHABA INVASION: US AID TO ZAIRE; CONSULTATIONS
WITH FRENCH

REF: STATE 83689

1. SINCE RECEIPT REF, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CALL ON ELYSEE AFRICAN AFFAIRS ADVISER RENE JOURNIAC BECAUSE OF HIS PREOCCUPATION WITH THE STATE VISIT OF THE RWANDAN PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT WEEKEND OF REFLECTION AT RAMBOUILLET, AND PREPARATIONS FOR DAKAR FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANCE OF REF WITH QUAI OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, INCLUDING A LONG CONVERSATION APRIL 19 WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA CHRISTIAN DE LA ROCHERE.

2. IN ESSENCE, LA ROCHERE EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEWS. THE FRENCH ARE ALL TOO WELL AWARE THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 11511 201049Z

MOROCCAN-FRENCH EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE IS BUT THE FIRST STEP IN A SERIES OF ACTIONS WHICH, IF THE MOBUTU REGIME IS TO SURVIVE, MUST INCLUDE PROFOUND REORGANIZATION OF ZAIRE'S MILITARY FORCES AND ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION. WHILE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT OF ZAIRIAN FORCES, INCLUDING THE RECAPTURE OF A FEW TOWNS, PROBABLY WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SET THE STAGE FOR SERIOUS

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE, LA ROCHERE SAID THAT ANY ADVANCE BEYOND DILOLO WOULD BE FOLLY.

3. NOTING FRENCH ATTEMPTS TO CLOAK THEIR AID TO ZAIRE IN AN AFRICAN MANTLE, LA ROCHERE SAID THAT AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN HELPING ZAIRE RESTRUCTURE ITS ARMY AND ECONOMY ALSO SEEMS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. COUNTRIES LIKE SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST HAVE SOME WELL-TRAINED OFFICERS AND EXPERIENCED ECONOMISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRENCH AND BELGIAN EXPERTS, MIGHT BE FORMED INTO SMALL TEAMS TO ADVISE THE ZAIRIANS ON MILITARY AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. SUCH TEAMS PROBABLY WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ZAIRE THAN WOULD EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN ADVISERS AND WOULD HAVE THE ADDITIONAL MERIT OF DEMONSTRATING MODERATE AFRICAN WILL AND CAPACITY TO ASSIST A THREATENED BROTHER. THE FRENCH FEEL IT VERY IMPORTANT TO BRING AS MANY AFRICANS AS POSSIBLE INTO THE ACT BOTH FOR ITS COSMETIC VALUE AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO STIMULATE THE AFRICANS TO GREATER CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN COLLECTIVE ABILITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. HE HINTED THAT JOURNIAC AND QUAI AFRICAN DIRECTOR GEORGY WOULD BE WORKING IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE DAKAR SUMMIT TO SELL THIS PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CAREFUL TO LABEL IT AS REFLECTING HIS PERSONAL THINKING.

4. COMMENT: FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, LA ROCHERE'S IDEAS SEEM WORTHY OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. WE PRESUME THAT HIS RELATIVELY LONG-TERM VIEW OF ZAIRE'S NEEDS IS SHARED BY THE ELYSEE, WHOSE ROLE IN SUCH MATTERS REMAINS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 11511 201049Z

PREDOMINANT. REPORTS FROM PARTICIPANTS IN THE DAKAR MEETING AND DISCUSSIONS WE HOPE TO HAVE WITHIN THE WEEK WITH JOURNIAC SHOULD REVEAL THE REAL SITUATION.

HARLAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INVASIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date: 20-Nov-2001 12:00:00 am
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason: 1.5D
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS11511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS, DECL: 04/20/07 25X6
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770136-1275
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704106/ddwecaaf.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 12293e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 83689
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2669530
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20020213
Subject: SHABA INVASION: US AID TO ZAIRE; CONSULTATIONS WITH FRENCH
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12293e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009